

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Richard Meyers, City Manager

SUBJECT: Friday Update

DATE: August 14, 2020

Yard of the Week

This week's Yard of the Week is located at 1386 Cottonwood Place. The yard is a beautiful variety of plantings in a multi-level display. It is hard to believe that there are only six more weeks of the 2020 Yard of the Week season left. If there is a yard that deserves recognition, be sure to get them nominated soon for the 2020 season.

Cottage Grove Library

On Monday the Curbside Pickup program began at the Library. The first week of the program saw 7 patrons arrange pick-ups for a total of 15 items. As the program gets under way we expect to see the requests increase. Anyone wishing to check out material from the library can email, call or visit the Library's webpage to request materials. When the materials are collected and ready, Library staff will call and schedule a pickup of the materials. All materials must be returned through the book return on the east side of the building.

The computer access continues as well. Five computers are available at 9:00, 10:00 and 11:00 am Monday through Friday for thirty minutes at a time. For more information about the limited services at the Cottage Grove Library contact the Library at: (541)942-3828 or library@cottagegrove.org.

Cybersecurity Webinar

The City Manager and IT staff attended a Cybersecurity Webinar hosted by Portland State University this week. The webinar included a report on the ransomware attack that hit Tillamook County last year. It also included some interesting insights from cybersecurity professionals. Attached to the Friday Update is a poster from the SANS Institute's Securing the Human program about phishing and spear phishing.

Lane Transit District/South Lane Wheels to Resume LTD Connector

Lane Transit District (LTD), in partnership with South Lane Wheels, will resume operation of the LTD Connector, the District's mobility on demand pilot program, beginning Monday, August 17, 2020, under new hours of service and fare structure.

Cottage Grove residents can request a ride for an essential trip within the city limits aboard the Connector by downloading and using the TransLoc Microtransit smartphone app or telephone

(1-942-0456 ext.1) to schedule the ride with the dispatcher from 9 am to 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday. The Cottage Grove Connector vehicle capacity is four riders. To provide as much capacity for riders two buses will be operating except when dropping to one bus as vehicle operators take a meal break.

“LTD is pleased to resume modified service of the Cottage Grove Connector pilot program to provide riders on demand access to the essential places they need to go, such as the grocery store or to medical appointments,” said John Ahlen, LTD’s Accessible Services Program Manager. “As part of LTD’s Health-First initiative, Cottage Grove Connector vehicle operators and passengers will be required to wear hands free nose and mouth coverings while observing social distancing requirements to use the Connector.”

Other Cottage Grove Connector pilot project Health-First actions include:

- LTD/South Lane Wheels will regularly wipe down all hard surfaces in the vehicle
- Vehicle operators will open vehicle windows for fresh air as often as possible
- Vehicle operators temperatures will be checked prior to beginning work
- Social distancing is required for all persons not traveling together (maximum of three people per vehicle)

The Cottage Grove Connector is \$1 per passenger one-way. Children aged 5 and under ride for free.

LTD fare media, including student ID, half-fare, or honored rider passes **are not currently accepted** on the Cottage Grove Connector. Carry-on items are limited to what can be carried onboard by the passenger and held on their lap or stored under their seat.

To access LTD Route 98 to Creswell/LCC/Eugene, riders can use the Cottage Grove Connector to be taken to the LTD bus stop at Walmart during the Connector’s operating hours. In addition, the Route 98 bus currently travels from Walmart through the center of Cottage Grove before departing for Creswell, Lane Community College, and the Downtown Eugene Station. Prior to the Cottage Grove Connector pilot program postponement in March due to COVID-19 restrictions, community residents had embraced the service as a convenient way to travel across town. On average, more than 100 people per day were using the service instead of driving a personal vehicle or using other less efficient means of personal transportation to go to medical appointments, shopping or to visit friends and family.

“The Cottage Grove Connector is convenient and is providing LTD with important ridership data that will help inform future mobility on demand services in Cottage Grove and in other communities in the District, as well,” Ahlen said. “LTD will evaluate the Cottage Grove Connector pilot program in the coming months to determine its viability as a more permanent service option.” Initial funding for the Cottage Grove Connector pilot program was made possible through the Oregon Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund (STIF). This reintroduction is funded from STIF and money awarded to LTD through the CARES Act.

Sidewalk Repairs

This week Reece Concrete, Inc. cut and removed damaged sidewalk and gutter drainage caused by former street trees on the south side of the intersection on East Main Street and South 6th Street. Three tree stumps were ground out and new concrete was poured restoring the sidewalk and storm drainage. The City plans to repair other locations along East Main Street where trees have been removed and the sidewalk damaged. These repairs will be made as funding and time allows.

Tree Trimming

Friday, August 21st Full Circle Tree Service will be trimming the trees along East Gibbs Street in front of the Community Center. Four of the trees will be trimmed reducing the canopy level to the same height as the communication lines along Gibbs. Two trees will be removed as they have severe splits in their trunks as a result of the February 2019 snow storm. The removed trees will be replaced with two new approved street trees.

Quote of the Week

“One of the happiest moments in life is when you find the courage to let go of what you can’t change.”

~QuotesBlog.net~